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The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies Newsletter

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2013

# The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies Annual Newsletter

The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies

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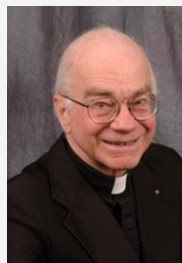
# The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies

Annual Newsletter | Volume 1 | 2013



## Inside this issue

Promoting Peace on a Global Scale	2
Inaugural Lecture of Our 60th Anniversary	3
New Scholarly Publications Websites	4
New Website & Facebook Page	5
New iTunes Channel	5
September 22, 2013 Conference	6
Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture	7
Other Upcoming 2013 Events	7
Advisory Board Members and Faculty & Staff	8



## From the Director

This year marks a special milestone in the history of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies as we celebrate our 60th anniversary. Founded in 1953 by Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher at Seton Hall University, the Institute remains the oldest academic institution in the world dedicated to Catholic-Jewish relations and the founder of the only Jewish-Christian studies graduate program in the United States. For more than six decades, the Institute has been a vibrant beacon of peace and has made significant regional, national and international impacts through our programs (see page 2).

On January 30, 2013 we initiated our two-year 60th anniversary celebration with an inaugural lecture that featured a keynote address by Dr. Peter Schäfer, Princeton's Perelman Professor of Jewish-Christian Studies (see page 3). We followed this event with the launch of a new website, Facebook page, iTunes channel and scholarly publication websites (see pages 4-5) as well as this issue of the Institute's first annual newsletter.

Looking ahead, we invite you to join us for several upcoming events that promote peace and interfaith dialogue including the Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher Conference, the John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture, the opening reception of the Building Bridges Art Exhibit and a special documentary film festival (see pages 6-7).

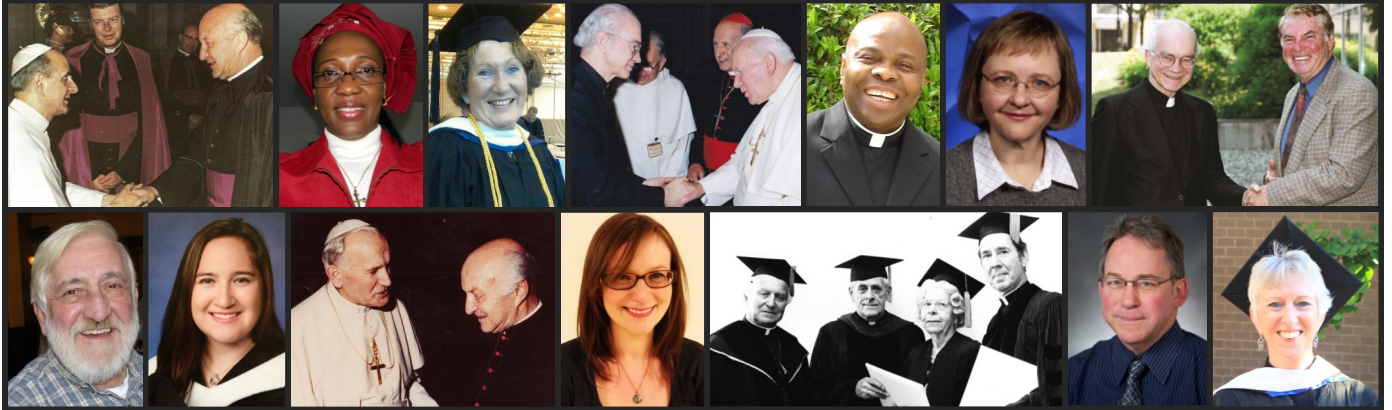
In closing, I want to thank all of our supporters who over the past 60 years have devoted their time, talent and generous donations to carrying out our mission of encouraging and increasing the collaborative peace-building efforts of Jewish and Christian scholars, theologians, educators and students. *Your loving-kindness is better than life!* (Psalm 63:3)

*Reverend Laurence E. Frizzell*

Director, Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies  
Director, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program

*Promoting the peace-building efforts of Jewish and Christian scholars, theologians, educators and students for 60 years*

## Promoting Peace on a Global Scale



The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies has been an innovative catalyst for promoting peace since its founding by Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher at Seton Hall University in 1953.

Working with a distinguished regional, national and international network of specialists and supporters, the Institute has become a leading center of expertise and a principal advocate in developing, encouraging and increasing the collaborative peace-building efforts of Jewish and Christian scholars, theologians, educators and students. For 60 years the Institute has partnered with Seton Hall University to make a significant global impact in the areas of research and publication; in-depth study and education; and engagement and collaboration.

Highlights of our achievements include:

- Promoting and assisting with the drafting of the Statement on the “Church’s Bond to the Jewish People” (*Nostra Aetate*) at the Second Vatican Council
- Encouraging and supporting the Holy See in building strong partnership and fostering close relations with the Jewish people
- Founding the first and only national Master of Arts (M.A.) in Jewish-Christian Studies program in 1975
- Establishing three unique archive collections in the Walsh Library from Jewish, Catholic and Protestant scholars, theologians and activists that provide researchers, specialists and students an exclusive opportunity to investigate one-of-kind publications and resources that cover the history of Judaeo-Christian studies and Jewish-Christian relations over the past century

Additionally, the Institute has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarship aid to students from all over the world who are matriculated in the Department of Religion’s M.A. in Jewish-Christian Studies program at Seton Hall. This program was founded by the Institute in 1975 and has become a model for eliminating prejudice through understanding. Our scholarship recipients have come from 21 countries across five continents (all of which have been denoted on the world map on the front cover of this newsletter) and many have become leaders across a broad spectrum of professions, vocations and specialties such as primary and secondary education, diplomacy, social welfare, humanitarian relief, Catholic and Protestant ministries and Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Through our scholarship and grants program, we are helping to unite and empower a new, globally diverse generation of scholars, educators and students who are dedicated to exploring and promoting Jewish-Christian values, practices and traditions that promote and advocate peace in our world.

## Inaugural Lecture of Our 60th Anniversary Celebration



**Peter Schäfer, D.Phil.**  
**Princeton University**

The Institute inaugurated its 60th anniversary at Seton Hall University on January 30, 2013. The event, the first of many in the university's two year celebration of *Building Bridges: 60 Years of Jewish-Christian Dialogue*, featured a warm welcome from Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban, President of Seton Hall University, and the keynote address, *Two Powers in Heaven? The Emergence of Binitarian Ideas in Pre-Christian Judaism*, by Dr. Peter Schäfer, Perelman Professor of Jewish-Christian Studies, Princeton University.

Dr. Schäfer, an expert in rabbinic literature and history, early Jewish mysticism and Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, discussed whether beliefs about there being more than one divine power in heaven, such as the Davidic Messiah King or the "Little God" Metron, emerged in pre-Christian Judaism during the Second Temple period and whether these beliefs may have contributed to shaping New Testament Christianity. An outline of the biblical, qumranic, pseudepigraphical and other ancient texts Dr. Schäfer evaluated in support of his premise can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/12LNQNA>.

The video, *The Life and Legacy of Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher*, was also premiered during the inauguration as a special tribute to the Institute's founding director. The short film, which was produced by Seton Hall University Television Production III, highlighted the pioneering *Nostra Aetate*, a watershed document that laid the foundation

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***"It is no cliché to say Monsignor John Oesterreicher was truly a man ahead of his time. For us, who have basked in the blessings of Nostra Aetate for almost 50 years, the world before its promulgation in 1965 is hard to imagine."***

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for positive Jewish-Christian relations and influenced the work of countless individuals as well as episcopal conferences and bishops throughout the world. You can watch the video at <http://bit.ly/17kuLjY>.

Dr. Esteban was presented with a letter of appreciation from the Yad Vashem Center in Jerusalem by Paul Gibbons, former Chairman of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, at the event's opening. In his remarks Dr. Esteban noted: "It is no cliché to say Monsignor John Oesterreicher was truly a man ahead of his time. For us, who have basked in the blessings of *Nostra Aetate* for almost 50 years, the world before its promulgation in 1965 is hard to imagine."



**Paul Gibbons presenting Dr. Esteban with a letter of appreciation from the Yad Vashem Center**

Maestro Jason Tramm, Director of Choral Activities in the Department of Communication and the Arts, and the Seton Hall University Choir performed beautiful renditions of *Hope for Resolution* (Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory) and *O Clap Your Hands* (Ralph Vaughn William) for the more than 200 attendees during a musical interlude.



**Maestro Jason Tramm and the University Choir**

The program concluded with a question-and-answer session led by Dr. Charles A. Carter, Associate Dean and SHU Professor of Religious Studies, and a closing prayer by Rabbi Asher Finkel, SHU Professor in Jewish-Christian Studies.



## New Scholarly Publication Websites



The Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, Director of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, and Rabbi Asher Finkel, Professor Emeritus in Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, launched new webpages in April that provide global access to their vast collections of scholarly works. Their collections are part of the institutional repositories and scholarly publishing services hosted by Berkeley Electronic Press' SelectedWorks and are managed by the University Libraries at Seton Hall.

Students, faculty and the general public can now access more than 180 of Father Frizzell's and Rabbi Finkel's scholarly works, including articles; contribution to books, dictionaries and encyclopedias; conference papers; biblical commentaries and reflections; and radio interviews. The collections of both scholars will continue to grow throughout the year as additional copyright permissions from various publishers are secured and new publications and audio recordings of past lectures by Father Frizzell and Rabbi Finkel are uploaded to their respective sites.

"SelectedWorks is a powerful tool that maximizes the readership and impact of our faculty's work by providing free, global access to students, researchers and scholars 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any computer or mobile device," said Dr. John Buschman, Dean of University Libraries at Seton Hall University. "The addition of Rabbi

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***"The addition of Rabbi Asher Finkel's and Father Lawrence Frizzell's scholarly corpora into our academic repository is a remarkable and valuable supplement to Seton Hall's growing SelectedWorks collection and to the overall network of international scholarship."***

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Asher Finkel's and Father Lawrence Frizzell's scholarly corpora into our academic repository is a remarkable and valuable supplement to Seton Hall's growing SelectedWorks collection and to the overall network of international scholarship."



Rabbi Finkel and Father Frizzell have also begun to build similar repositories on Academia.edu, a company that is committed to accelerating the world's research. Scholars from all over the world have already signed up to follow Finkel and Frizzell's Academia.edu pages. These scholars hail from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Mexico and Poland. Additionally, Rabbi Finkel and Father Frizzell's publications have been downloaded by scholars, students and others from Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Hong Kong, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, the U.K. and the U.S.

The Institute has also begun to build separate SelectedWorks websites that will provide access to the selected publications of the Institute's founding director, Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher, and to *Teshuvah Institute Papers* and other scholarly works published exclusively by the Institute.

Rabbi Finkel's publications can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/Finkel> and <http://setonhall.academia.edu/AsherFinkel>, and Father Frizzell's publications can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/Frizzell> and <http://setonhall.academia.edu/LawrenceFrizzell>.

## The Institute Debuts its New Website & Facebook Page

This Spring semester the Institute launched its new Facebook page and website, both of which were designed to advance the work of the Institute and to help supporters, alumni, students, prospective students and the general public to better interact with the Institute and with one another. “We are very excited to be a part of Seton Hall University’s website and invite everyone to visit us online at [www.shu.edu/go/judaeo-christian](http://www.shu.edu/go/judaeo-christian) and to “Like” and “Follow” us on Facebook,” said the Institute’s director, Lawrence Frizzell.

The new website highlights the Institute’s work in its three program areas of research and publication, in-depth study and education, and engagement and collaboration and features a section on scholarship opportunities for students and prospective students who want to advance their academic knowledge and/or professional careers and earn their Master of Arts degree in Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University. “We also included pages that outline our mission, vision and values and sections that briefly detail our 60-year history and our most notable historical milestones so that visitors can really get to know who we are and what we do,” said Frizzell.



The Institute’s new Facebook page takes this a step further by allowing the Institute to reach out and engage their supporters, alumni, students and the global community at-large in their programs through a social media platform that most of them are using several times a day. New and longtime supporters from all over the world and the Institute’s former scholarship recipients who moved out of state or out of the country upon graduation have connected and/or re-connected with the Institute through Facebook. You can join and be a part of this global Facebook community at [www.facebook.com/JudaeoChristianStudies](http://www.facebook.com/JudaeoChristianStudies).

## New iTunes Channel for *The Kinship of Catholics & Jews* Radio Program



**The Institute’s radio program is broadcast on WSOU 89.5 FM**

The Institute has created a new iTunes channel for its weekly radio program, *The Kinship of Catholics & Jews*. The iTunes channel can be accessed digitally on the iTunes Store® worldwide ([www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com)) at no charge and features a collection of podcasts of previously broadcast shows, the oldest of which is a discussion between the Institute’s current director, Father Lawrence E. Frizzell, and the Institute’s founding director, Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher.

Established in 1990, the radio show is moderated by Father Frizzell every Sunday morning from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. on WSOU 89.5 FM. The iTunes channel was created to help further *The Kinship*’s mission of promoting the shared values of Christians and Jews by giving listeners the flexibility of accessing digital podcasts of any show they choose at their convenience. No longer confined to catching the radio show during a narrow 30-minute

window on Sunday mornings, listeners can now access *The Kinship*’s radio shows 24/7 from any computer, iPhone, iPad or mobile device they choose for free.

More than 100 podcasts of interviews with scholars in the fields of biblical and Jewish-Christian studies as well as interviews with professors from Seton Hall University across a wide spectrum of schools and disciplines, are currently available on *The Kinship of Catholics & Jews*’ iTunes channel. Go to <http://bit.ly/kinshipWSOU> to listen to the podcasts directly. After accessing the site, simply click on the blue “View In iTunes” button on the left side of the page and then click the free “Download iTunes” button from Apple’s iTunes Store®.

## Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher Conference

### SAVE THE DATE: September 22, 2013



**John Connelly, Ph.D.**  
University of California,  
Berkeley

The Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher Conference will convene on Sunday, **September 22, 2013** from 1:00 - 6:00pm in the Beck Rooms of the Walsh University Library at Seton Hall University. Sponsored by the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, this conference will feature a lecture by Dr. John Connelly, Professor in the Department of History at the University of California and author of *From Enemy to Brother: The Revolution in Catholic Thinking on the Jews, 1933-1965* (Harvard University Press, 2012) as well as the following five presentations:

- “The Jewish Heritage of John Oesterreicher in Moravia” by Alzbeta Drexlerova, Jesuit Faculty, Olomous, Czech Republic
- “John Oesterreicher’s Response to French and Italian Antisemitism” by Cristiana Facchini, University of Bologna, Italy
- “Catholic-Jewish Relations during the Six Day War” by Jason Olson, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts
- “‘Death of God’ thinkers and Jewish and Christian responses” by Peter H. Greene, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
- “Reflections” by Gregory Baum, McGill University, Quebec, Canada

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***“Professor Baum, a fellow consultor with Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher in the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity during the Second Vatican Council, will give the conference audience a unique, first-hand account of a seminal moment in the Church’s history and Catholic-Jewish relations. “***

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**Rabbi Alan Brill, Ph.D.**  
Conference Chair  
Seton Hall University

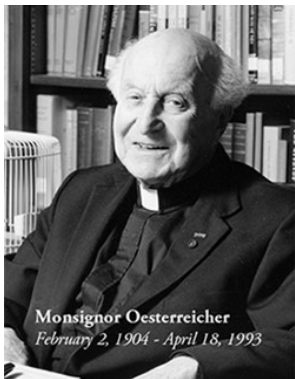
“Not only will the conference feature a keynote address by Dr. John Connelly and presentations by scholars from Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy and the United States, but it will also include reflections by theologian and Professor Emeritus of McGill University, Gregory Baum,” said Rabbi Alan Brill, chair of the conference and the Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair of Jewish-Christian Studies. “Professor Baum, a fellow consultor with Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher in the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity during the Second Vatican Council, will give the conference audience a unique, first-hand account of a seminal moment in the Church’s history and Catholic-Jewish relations. We therefore invite scholars, students and all others who are interested in Jewish-Christian dialogue and relations to join us on September 22nd and to RSVP as soon as possible,” Rabbi Brill added.

Each presentation and Dr. Connelly’s keynote address will conclude with a separate question and answer session, and Rabbi Noam Marans, director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations at the American Jewish Committee, will offer final remarks.

To RSVP for the conference, which is free and open to the public, please contact Father Lawrence Frizzell at (973) 761-9751 or [lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu](mailto:lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu). Scholars who wish to attend the event and meet with Father Frizzell or with Rabbi Brill before the conference are asked to contact Father Frizzell directly as soon as possible.

## 20th Annual John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture

### SAVE THE DATE: October 27, 2013



The Reverend Thomas F. Stransky CSP will serve as the keynote speaker for this year's 20th Annual John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture on Sunday, **October 27, 2013** at Seton Hall University. Father Stransky's lecture, *The Genesis of Second Vatican Council II's Declaration on the Jewish People (Nostra Aetate): An Insider's View*, will focus on the history and impact of the Second Vatican Council over the past 50 years.

Father Stransky was one of the original staff members of the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity. Initiating his service in 1960 shortly after the Secretariat was formed as one of the preparatory commissions for the Second Vatican Council, Fr. Stransky staffed a proposal to address the Church's relationship with the Jewish people as it developed through the Council to become the *Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions* and was eventually promulgated on October 28, 1965. Completing his

work in Rome in 1970, he returned to the United States where he served as President of the Paulist Fathers. In 1986, Fr. Stransky began serving as Rector of Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem until his retirement, continuing to serve during those years as a consultor to the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. In November 2006 he was the inaugural lecturer for the *Nostra Aetate* series sponsored by Georgetown University.

Institute director Lawrence E. Frizzell noted, "We are privileged to have Father Stransky as our keynote speaker this year. As we celebrate the Institute's 60th anniversary and John's memory and legacy, it is wonderful to have a man who played such an immense role in bringing *Nostra Aetate* to fruition and who has likewise has devoted his life to promoting interfaith dialogue in our world."

The memorial lecture is free and open to the public and will be held from 2:30 - 5:30pm in the Beck Rooms of the Walsh Library on Seton Hall's main campus located at 400 South Orange Avenue. For additional information and to RSVP for the event, please contact Father Lawrence Frizzell at (973) 761.9751 or [lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu](mailto:lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Other 2013 Events



### Building Bridges Art Exhibit

**September 9 - October 28, 2013**

Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher and the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies will be the subject of a multi-media display at Seton Hall's Walsh Gallery. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, **September 12, 2013** from 5:00 - 7:00pm at the Walsh Gallery, and all are invited to attend. Please contact Walsh Gallery Director, Jeanne Brasile, at (937) 275.2033 or [jeanne.brasile@shu.edu](mailto:jeanne.brasile@shu.edu) for more information.

### Documentary Film Festival

**October 2 - September 6, 2013**

On six consecutive Wednesdays beginning on **October 2, 2013**, six documentary films selected for their ability to inspire others to continue to build interfaith bridges will be screened. These screenings will include a discussion with directors and other experts, and while free, seating is limited. To RSVP please contact Marilyn Zirl at (973) 761.9006 or [marilyn.zirl@shu.edu](mailto:marilyn.zirl@shu.edu). The first four films will be screened at the Main Lounge in the Bishop Dougherty University Center, and the last two films will be screened in the Beck Rooms in the Walsh Library.



# The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies

## Will you help support our mission?

Please consider supporting the mission of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies by making a donation in honor of our 60th anniversary.

Your gift will help us continue to unite and empower Jewish and Christian scholars, educators and students who are dedicated to exploring and promoting their shared values, practices, traditions and peaceful pursuits.

All donations are tax deductible and may be sent to:

Lawrence E. Frizzell  
Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies  
400 South Orange Avenue  
South Orange, NJ 07079

For more information, please contact Fr. Lawrence Frizzell at (973) 761.9751 or [lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu](mailto:lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu).

### Advisory Board

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*Fostering the peace-building efforts of Jewish and Christian scholars, theologians, educators and students for 60 years*

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Promoting peace for 60 Years

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